

hands of Dr. Stimpson for description at the time of the terrible catastrophe which laid a great part of that city in ashes, and were destroyed; but, by a singularly fortunate accident, our colleague Mr. Gwyn Jeffreys happened to be in Chicago shortly before the fire, and Dr. Stimpson gave him a series of duplicates of the mollusca for comparison with the species dredged in the 'Porcupine,' and a valuable remnant was thus saved. M. de Pourtales, writing to one of the editors of Silliman's Journal on the 20th of September, 1868, says: "The dredgings were made outside the Florida reef, at the same time as the deep-sea soundings, in lines extending from the reef to a depth of about 400 to 500 fathoms, so as to develop the figure of the bottom, its formation and fauna. Six such lines were sounded out and dredged over in the space comprised between Sandy Bay and Coffin's Patches. All of them agree nearly in the following particulars: from the reef to about the 100-fathom line, four or five miles off, the bottom consists chiefly of broken shells and very few corals, and is rather barren of life. A second region extends from the neighbourhood of the 100-fathom line to about 300 fathoms; the slope is very gradual, particularly between 100 and 200 fathoms; the bottom is rocky, and is inhabited by quite a rich fauna. The breadth of this band varies from ten to twenty miles. The third region begins between 250 and 300 fathoms, and is the great bed of foraminifera so widely extended over the bottom of the ocean. . . .

"From the third region the dredges brought up fewer though not less interesting specimens, the